

REMARKS

The Office Action of 08/07/2007 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 11 and 12 were rejected as being anticipated by Schultz. Claims 9 and 10 were rejected as being unpatentable over Schultz in view of Ajit. The claims have been amended to more clearly distinguish over the cited reference. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In particular, the claims have been amended to make clear that load determination means of a configurable circuit arrangement determines a load applied at a circuit component having different fan-in or fan-out depending on a configuration of the circuit arrangement; and adjusting means adjusts drive capacity of the component to a value less than a maximum drive capacity while still meeting a delay specification. Power consumption may thereby be considerably reduced without impacting performance. Support for these features is found, among other places, at the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9. No such combination of features is believed to be taught or suggested by Schultz.

Schultz describes an output driver having a digitally controlled impedance, enabling impedance matching with respect to a circuit connected to a pad driven by the output driver. The chief concern of Schultz is signal integrity, i.e., avoiding signal reflections and resulting signal distortion. It is not power consumption or delay. The output driver of Schultz has a single input and single output. It does not have different fan-in or fan-out depending on a circuit configuration. Furthermore, the drive capability is not adjusted to meet a delay specification as presently claimed.

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Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-12 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Ure", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Ure, Reg. 33,089

Dated: 11/07/2007